

Perspectives on the use of clinical- and cost-effectiveness information by Medicare

ISSUE: What are the issues that Medicare should consider in using information about clinical- and cost-effectiveness when making coverage decisions and setting payment rates?

KEY POINTS: Using information about clinical- and cost-effectiveness when making coverage decisions or setting payment rates may enhance Medicare's ability to be a value-based purchaser. For discussion of these matters, two speakers will present results of their research and experience in conducting these types of analyses. Issues to be discussed include:

- Can such analyses be used to both promote beneficiaries' access to high-quality health care and help Medicare act as a prudent purchaser?
- Will considering information about clinical- and cost-effectiveness delay beneficiaries' access to new technologies?
- Are there agreed upon standards for designing these studies?

The speakers are:

- Peter Neumann, ScD, Associate Professor of Policy and Decision Sciences in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health
- David Eddy, MD, PhD, independent consultant.

ACTION: The panelists will answer questions about their research and experience in conducting clinical- and cost-effectiveness studies. Commissioners can then discuss the implications of the research for Medicare. The discussion will guide staff work on this topic for the June 2005 report.

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